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Report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University

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I. Introduction

1. Late in 2014, the United Nations University (UNU) entered its fortieth year of operation. Since September 1975, when it commenced activities in Tokyo with a staff of fewer than 30 and a first-year budget of US$3.6 million, UNU has grown to become a global network of research and training institutes with a staff of 479 and an annual budget of more than $65 million.

2. Over these four decades, a host of new challenges have emerged — many of them growing in scale and complexity, and spanning diverse policy fields. Although the world has seen significant advances in poverty reduction, economic growth, and human development indicators, pervasive inequalities remain. The impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, meanwhile, threaten the sustainability of this hard-won progress. And while noteworthy progress has been made towards attaining the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, many countries will miss the 2015 deadline for multiple targets.

3. The reality is that existing policies and international structures are often ill-equipped to respond to today's global challenges. It has become increasingly apparent to UNU that in order to contribute effectively to solving today's challenges, the operational and research models developed decades ago must be constantly re-examined.

4. Under its sixth Rector, David M. Malone, UNU is implementing a number of institutional changes to become more responsive to the needs of the United Nations and its Member States, and to enhance the tangible impact of UNU research on intergovernmental deliberations and policy. These include, inter alia, a renewed effort to build policy linkages with the rest of the United Nations system, the development of larger and more ambitious research projects, and a re-energization of fund-raising efforts. The aim is to position UNU as an agile player in both the research and policy development arenas, and to broaden its community of donors and supporters.

5. The focus of UNU, in accordance with its Charter, is to assist in finding solutions to pressing global problems, with a particular focus on the needs of developing countries. To this end, UNU research strives to integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines so as to better understand complex problems and evaluate the potential efficacy of alternative solutions.

6. UNU has always produced research with strong academic and scientific value — but that research has not always generated policy-relevant knowledge. The aim of the ongoing institutional changes is to focus UNU research more specifically on identifying practical solutions to real problems, and to translate those findings into knowledge that can contribute to important policy debates within the United Nations system.

7. UNU research and knowledge-generation activities will hereafter take account of the needs of the United Nations (the United Nations Secretariat, deliberative bodies such as the General Assembly and Security Council, and United Nations system agencies) towards the fulfilment of the University's think-tank role.

8. The present report provides an overview of the recent institutional developments and new priorities that will shape the UNU of the future, as well as a snapshot of the major activities and achievements of UNU in 2014.

II. Overview

9. The United Nations University is a solution-focused think tank and research organization. Its mission is to contribute to efforts to resolve "the pressing global problems of human survival, development and welfare that are the concern of the United Nations and its agencies". Functioning under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNU operates as a global network of academic institutes and programmes coordinated by the UNU Centre.

10. As a think tank for the United Nations system, UNU undertakes focused, policy-relevant research that can offer objective, science-based perspectives in the service of policy debate and development. UNU carries out its work in collaboration with other entities of the United Nations system (agencies, programmes, commissions, funds and convention secretariats) and with leading universities, research institutes and think tanks worldwide, thereby acting as a bridge between United Nations policy communities and academic communities, particularly those in developing countries.

11. The **UNU Council** serves as the governing board of the University. The Council, inter alia, formulates the principles and policies of UNU and advises on/approves the UNU work programme and biennial budget. Members of the Council — who serve in an individual capacity rather than as representatives of their countries — are appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the concurrence of the Director-General of UNESCO. In addition to these appointed members, the Council includes the UNU Rector and three ex officio members, namely, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of UNESCO and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

12. The **UNU Rector** is responsible to the Council for the direction, administration, programming and coordination of the University. The Rector, who holds the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, is based at the UNU Centre in Tokyo.

13. The **UNU Centre** comprises a headquarters unit in Tokyo (Office of the Rector, UNU Centre for Policy Research, Administration, Campus Computing Centre, and Office of Communications) as well as the UNU Vice-Rectorate in Europe in Bonn, an administrative services unit in Kuala Lumpur, and liaison offices at the United Nations in New York and at UNESCO in Paris.

14. The academic work of the University in 2014 was carried out by its global network of research and training institutes and programmes:

- UNU-BIOLAC — UNU Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean, Caracas (established in 1988)
- UNU-CRIS — UNU Institute on Comparative Regional Integration Studies, Bruges, Belgium (2001)
- UNU-EHS — UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security, Bonn, Germany (2003)
- UNU-FLORES — UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources, Dresden, Germany (2012)

- UNU-GCM — UNU Institute on Globalization, Culture and Mobility, Barcelona, Spain (2012)
- UNU-IAS — UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, Tokyo (2014)
- UNU-IIGH — UNU International Institute for Global Health, Kuala Lumpur (2007)
- UNU-INRA — UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa, Accra (1990)
- UNU-INWEH — UNU Institute for Water, Environment and Health, Hamilton, Canada (1996)
- UNU-MERIT — UNU Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology, Maastricht, Netherlands (2007)
- UNU-WIDER — UNU World Institute for Development Economics Research, Helsinki (1985)
- UNU Iceland-based programmes — UNU Geothermal Training Programme (UNU-GTP; 1979), UNU Fisheries Training Programme (UNU-FTP; 1998), UNU Land Restoration Training Programme (UNU-LRT; 2010), UNU Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST; 2013), Reykjavik

III. Institutional development

15. UNU was very active with respect to institutional development in 2014, as evidenced by the following examples.

Council sessions

16. In 2014, the UNU Council convened in two sessions.

17. At its sixty-first session, held on 12 and 13 May in Rome, the UNU Council, inter alia:

(a) Reviewed and discussed the strategic plans of the individual UNU institutes and programmes, and the proposed outline and elements of the UNU strategic plan 2015-2019;

(b) Considered and approved revisions to the 2014-2015 biennial budget;

(c) Reviewed the progress and status of ongoing and new institutional development initiatives, including the establishment of the UNU Institute for Sustainable Development;

(d) Adopted the statute of the UNU Operating Unit on Policy-driven Electronic Governance, and approved the text of the host country agreement and bilateral agreement;

(e) Adopted the statute of the consolidated UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability.

18. At its sixty-second session, held on 8 and 9 December in Tokyo, the UNU Council, inter alia:

(a) Considered the final report of an external evaluation of UNU at its fortieth year of academic activity;

(b) Adopted the UNU strategic plan 2015-2019;

(c) Considered and approved a revised biennial programme and budget for 2014-2015;

(d) Reviewed the progress made towards the establishment of a UNU Institute on Human Resources and Economic Development in Dakar.

Other meetings

19. The forty-sixth session of the Conference of Directors of UNU Research and Training Centres and Programmes and the 7th meeting of the UNU Academic Committee were held in Rome on 11 May 2014. Discussions focused on the strategic plans of the individual institutes and programmes, including such issues as staffing and budget, business model and work programme, funding and fund-raising, and current/envisaged challenges; on developments in the UNU system during the preceding year; and on administrative matters related to the University's postgraduate degree programmes.

Consolidation of two institutes

20. The UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) was formed through the merger of the University's two Japan-based research and training institutes: the UNU Institute of Advanced Studies (also called UNU-IAS, established in 1996) and the UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP, established in 2009). The proposal to consolidate the two institutes was endorsed by the UNU Council in April 2013, and the new UNU-IAS was formally inaugurated on 1 January 2014.

21. The consolidated UNU-IAS is located in the UNU headquarters building in Tokyo. Its research programme focuses on high-level policymaking in the areas of sustainability science, biodiversity and environmental governance.

Establishment of the Centre for Policy Research

22. The UNU Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR) was established in 2014 at the UNU Centre in Tokyo as part of a broader effort by the UNU Rector to respond to the Secretary-General's request to enhance UNU policy relevance in the fields of peace and security as well as global development. The core mission of UNU-CPR is to generate policy research that speaks to major debates in the wider United Nations community as well as the Secretary-General's priorities in these areas.

23. UNU-CPR has two core programmes. The first focuses on the changing nature of violence and provides concrete insights into how humanitarian, development and security actors need to adapt to reduce violence and its impact on society in the context of organized crime, terrorism, criminal violence and rapid urbanization. The second programme focuses on securing developmental outcomes in fragile contexts; it draws from the engagement of UNU-CPR on development, peacebuilding and humanitarian response to understand the particular challenges of operating in the

most challenging environments, as well as on how to build the right systems to measure progress and ensure accountability. This work links to UNU-CPR support to the post-2015 development agenda, which focuses on how the United Nations system can implement the agreements that emerge in 2015.

24. Work within these programmes also incorporates direct research support to the Secretary-General's high-level independent panel on peace operations; the United Nations review of the peacebuilding architecture in 2015; the work of the World Humanitarian Summit on moving beyond the development/humanitarian divide and urban risk; and a research project on Security Council sanctions. UNU-CPR has also supported the Secretary-General's leadership on the climate change issue by organizing a major panel on climate economics at the 2014 climate summit.

Evolution of the UNU Office in New York

25. The role of the UNU Office at the United Nations in New York (UNU-ONY) is evolving, with the overarching aims of (a) making UNU more visible within the United Nations system and (b) serving as a key node in a larger network of policy connections that have potential value for UNU and its researchers. UNU-ONY helps to convey research-based policy ideas to key policymakers by, for example, holding strategic meetings, briefings and conferences, and streamlining the flow of ideas from UNU to the United Nations. The Office also seeks to assist UNU institutes in connecting with relevant decision makers and policymakers within the United Nations system.

26. In 2014, UNU-ONY hosted three visits by the UNU Rector and organized more than 50 bilateral meetings. Visits by staff from 15 UNU entities also led to several high-profile engagements with United Nations policy processes.

27. Early in the year, UNU-ONY briefed the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on what to expect when it was elected to the Security Council. In November, UNU-ONY worked closely with the Permanent Mission of Chad to help it prepare for its December presidency of the Security Council by drafting the concept note for a thematic debate on organized crime. The UNU-ONY Head of Office also participated in formal hearings organized by both the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

Launch of the UNU Migration Network

28. The UNU Migration Network — a collaborative initiative of UNU-CRIS, UNU-EHS, UNU-CGM (network coordinator), UNU-IIGH and UNU-MERIT — seeks to contribute to evidence-based policymaking by assembling information on current activities and events of the global UNU system that relate to migration in the context of development. The network was launched in February; its online portal covers the migration-related work of the five institutes and provides access to more than 50 research projects and 220 publications.

Establishment of the Operating Unit on Policy-driven Electronic Governance

29. The UNU Operating Unit on Policy-driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) is an outgrowth of the electronic governance component of the former UNU International Institute for Software Technology (UNU-IIST) in Macao,

China. Following the signing of the host country agreement and bilateral agreement between UNU and the Government of Portugal on 23 May, UNU-EGOV began operating on 1 July in Guimarães, Portugal, in premises provided by the University of Minho. The focus of UNU-EGOV is on transforming the mechanisms of governance, and building effective governance capabilities, through strategic applications of information and communications technologies, with the aim of contributing to inclusive social and economic development, environmental sustainability, and peace and security.

Progress in establishing the Institute for Sustainable Development

30. The UNU Institute for Sustainable Development (L'Institut de recherche d'Alger pour le développement durable de l'Afrique; UNU-IRADDA) is on track to be set up in Algiers in 2015. Following the adoption of the statute of UNU-IRADDA by the UNU Council and the signing of the host country agreement and bilateral agreement between UNU and the Government of Algeria in November and December 2013, respectively, a UNU headquarters delegation met in Algiers in March with officials of the Government of Algeria and the National Social and Economic Council. In April, UNU received the first instalment of the Algerian Government's pledge for UNU-IRADDA. A call for applications for the directorship position of UNU-IRADDA was made in December; the selection of the successful candidate is scheduled for early in 2015.

Progress on setting up a new institute in Dakar

31. In March, based on a long-term partnership between UNU-MERIT and the Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale (CRES), a UNU delegation visited Senegal for discussions with representatives of the Government of Senegal regarding the establishment of a UNU institute for human resources and economic development in Dakar. The host country agreement was signed at that time, but the process of finalizing overall agreement has proceeded slowly, albeit with a spurt of activity at the end of 2014.

UNU-wide evaluation

32. With UNU approaching its fortieth anniversary, in 2013 the UNU Council requested the Rector to implement an external evaluation of UNU, covering the 10-year period 2003-2012. Three experts — Rich Fuchs of Futureworks Consulting Inc. (Canada), Radha Kumar of the Delhi Policy Group (India), and Ronaldo Lemos of the Institute for Technology and Society (Brazil) — were appointed to the evaluation team. They were tasked by the UNU Council with evaluating the extent to which UNU has:

(a) Functioned effectively as a cutting-edge think tank for the United Nations;

(b) Served as an effective conduit between academic communities in developing countries and United Nations policy communities;

(c) Pursued a problem-oriented approach in its research, and generated relevant, high-quality outputs.

33. The Council further requested the evaluation team to provide advice and recommendations on how UNU could best fulfil these functions in the future.

34. The evaluation process, which began late in January 2014, included 96 respondent/key informant interviews, five focus group sessions and four student meetings, as well as the review of a large number and variety of collateral documents and briefing notes. On 28 October, the team submitted a final report entitled "A 10-year UNU-wide retrospective evaluation". That document was before the UNU Council at its sixty-second session in December.

Changes in top leadership

- Kazuhiko Takemoto was appointed Director of the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, effective 1 January.
- Sebastian von Einsiedel was appointed Director of the UNU Centre for Policy Research, effective 1 February.
- Govindan Parayil, who had served as a UNU Vice-Rector since 29 July 2008, and concurrently as Director of UNU-IAS from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2013, left UNU on 29 July.
- Max Bond, UNU Executive Officer, was appointed to the concurrent post of UNU Vice-Rector, effective 1 August.

Other selected highlights

35. In June, UNU-IIGH formally joined the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, which was established by the Secretary-General under the leadership of the World Health Organization.

36. In June, UNU was offered membership in the Global Migration Group, in recognition of the expertise on migration offered by the UNU Migration Network.

37. In September, UNU-WIDER launched an updated version (3.0b) of the World Income Inequality Database. The database and its documentation are accessible on the UNU-WIDER website.

38. In October, UNU signed an agreement with the University of Minho in Portugal, whereby at least 10 academic staff of the University of Minho will dedicate 40 per cent of their research time to working with UNU-EGOV, while UNU-EGOV academic staff will contribute to the research activities of the University of Minho. The two institutions also will collaborate in the development of short course and postgraduate degree programmes.

IV. Institutional priorities

39. Under the leadership of its sixth Rector, David M. Malone, UNU has embarked on a re-appraisal of its objectives and business operations. The intent is to clarify the University's strategic direction and research focus in order to make UNU more responsive to the needs of the United Nations and to enhance its tangible impact on policy and intergovernmental deliberations.

40. The initial priorities of that effort, instituted in 2013, were:

(a) To integrate research, engagement and communications efforts so as to make UNU research outputs more accessible to policymakers;

(b) To enhance the organizational effectiveness and management of the global UNU system;

(c) To recruit high-calibre experts (researchers and communicators) who can bring in new ideas and research funds, implement projects effectively, and engage with policymakers.

41. As part of University-wide discussions to elicit new ideas on future modalities of research, capacity-building, policy development and knowledge-translation activities, the individual institutes and programmes of the UNU system developed new strategic plans. The culmination of those discussions, and the institute-level strategic plans, is the UNU strategic plan 2015-2019. This document, approved by the UNU Council at its sixty-second session in December, enumerates a number of organizational reforms and research priorities.

Organizational reforms

42. The strategic plan sets out four key organizational priorities for the 2015-2019 period.

Management excellence

43. Ensuring management excellence at all levels of operations is a priority. While the UNU Centre, through the Rector, traditionally has played a strong policy-setting role, greater autonomy in management and planning at the institute level will be encouraged. The UNU Centre henceforth will focus on providing strategic guidance to the institute directors, while simultaneously challenging them to meet new benchmarks of excellence in research, management and entrepreneurship.

44. The emphasis on management excellence includes facilitating more effective oversight by the UNU Council, as well as empowering institute advisory boards and committees to take a more active role in overseeing their institute's management, substantive orientation, and fund-raising efforts. Particular attention will be paid to appointing younger board/committee members who are actively engaged in local and international research communities.

Sustainable growth

45. The global UNU system has expanded greatly since 1985, when the first institute (UNU-WIDER) was established. That growth, however, has tended to be opportunistic — based on requests from outside entities or offers of funding for a specialized topic — rather than strategic.

46. Since March 2013, the Rectorate has been channelling proposals for new UNU units into one of two structural models — operating unit or institute — based on a new funding benchmark designed to ensure medium- and long-term financial sustainability.

47. The financial requirement for establishing an operating unit will include at least five years of assured annual core funding, typically of at least US$1.0 million, and an initial capital contribution to the UNU Endowment Fund. A full-fledged institute will be established only when a higher level of core and capital funding is assured: at least five years of annual core funding of US$2.0 million or more, and

capital contributions to the UNU Endowment Fund over a number of years, with the income reserved for operation of the institute. In both cases, the provision of suitable premises and coverage of basic running costs will also be required.

Streamlining of partnerships

48. The diverse web of UNU collaborators, supporters and associated affiliates enables the University to expand the reach of its research outputs, access the expertise of larger numbers of outstanding researchers, and identify new sources of funding. But not all partnerships have contributed to the UNU core objectives, and some have proved to be financially unstable.

49. Hereafter, the emphasis will be on top-quality collaborations that are demonstrably meaningful and outcome-oriented, and which further the research objectives of UNU. In particular, UNU institutes will be encouraged to work with nearby leading universities in collaborations that can create a dynamic research environment of benefit to both sides.

Restructuring of teaching programmes and capacity development

50. Under the UNU strategic plan 2011-2014, the University embarked on a system-wide effort to establish full-fledged postgraduate degree programmes. But that endeavour, while successful in several locations, inevitably (due to limited resources) undermined the focus on both policy relevance and research excellence.

51. While all existing UNU postgraduate degree programmes will continue to receive support — and institutes will be free to establish new postgraduate programmes when they so wish — the emphasis on postgraduate education is being scaled back. A clear preference will be given to developing doctoral-level degree programmes that have the potential to contribute to and reinforce UNU research, priority being given to programmes that include the participation and support of leading local university partners.

52. To ensure that UNU can consistently deliver original, high-quality research, capacity development activities are also likely to be given less priority over time. Capacity development activities outside of a formalized degree programme will be held to new standards of relevance and impact, beyond the mere availability of funding; they will be required to show that they fit within the overall aims of the University and bring demonstrable value, and that they do not consume resources that otherwise could be allocated to high-impact research and policy development. Capacity development initiatives in developing countries will be prioritized.

Research priorities

53. Despite its name, UNU is not (nor was it ever intended to be) a full-service "university"; it is a specialized think thank whose research contributions are defined by its unique position as a member of the United Nations system. The new strategic plan, therefore, calls for the University to refocus its expertise and resources on research topics that are of special relevance to the United Nations and its Member States, and to strengthen efforts to ensure that UNU research findings and researchers are both visible and accessible.

54. This bid for greater relevance and impact relies on more rigorous strategic planning across the UNU system, and on proactive engagement with policy. To this end, UNU institutes will overhaul their approaches to fund-raising, eschewing small grants in favour of fewer, but larger, subventions that will enable them to implement more ambitious research projects. UNU will also transform the way in which its research programmes are designed, and their outputs disseminated. The intent is to couple new, innovative research programming with the needs of policymakers by integrating medium-term "horizon" issues where UNU is able to identify critical gaps in policy expertise with research that provides insights on immediate policy challenges.

55. Under the UNU strategic plan 2015-2019, the University's research will prioritize quality and policy relevance.

High-quality research outputs

56. UNU research will emphasize quality over quantity by reducing the overall number of academic outputs in favour of fewer, higher impact publications. One component of this will be more cross-institute research that can harness the wide range of UNU in-house expertise to offer a unique, multidisciplinary perspective on pressing global issues.

Policy-relevant topics

57. The needs of policymakers will serve as a guide for UNU research. In principle, new UNU research proposals will be required to demonstrate policy relevance, with target audiences clearly identified from the outset — and with the United Nations prominent among those audiences. Small "academic" research projects aimed at limited audiences — even those for which readily available research funding exists — will be avoided.

V. Research projects

58. Under the UNU strategic plan 2011-2014, the work of UNU was grouped into five interdependent thematic clusters: (a) Development governance, (b) Global change and sustainable development, (c) Peace, security and human rights, (d) Population and health and (e) Science, technology and society. In 2014, UNU implemented 178 research projects (60 new, 70 ongoing, 48 completed during the year), of which 114 (64 per cent) were primarily focused on or in developing countries.

59. This section presents a selection of projects that produced significant outcomes/impact during the year or have been recognized as having an important policy dimension.

A. Development governance

60. **Global Re-ordering: Evolution through European Networks**. This project, funded by the European Union and implemented by a consortium of 16 partners that includes UNU-CRIS, examines the present and future role of the European Union in an emerging multipolar world. It seeks to track the changing nature of leadership on

salient themes in the fields of human security and sustainable development. The goals are to identify new global/regional risks and opportunities, and to provide ideas regarding optimal avenues for North-South cooperation in terms of multilateral and regional institutions. This four-year project will finish in 2015.

61. **Governance for Sustainable Development**. This UNU-IAS project, implemented in collaboration with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and supported by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan, seeks to contribute to international discussions regarding the establishment of the sustainable development goals in the short term, and to propose policies and frameworks for a long-term transformation in human behaviour towards a sustainable society. In 2014, the project produced a series of six policy briefs, three of which were launched at a policy forum in May at United Nations Headquarters in New York, with the aim of informing the discussions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Ideas from one of the briefs were included in the Working Group's outcome document.

62. **Institutions, Governance and Long-term Growth**. This multi-year project by UNU-MERIT and the French Development Agency "measured" institutions via the Institutional Profiles Database; explored the historical relationships between economic accumulation, political organization and social cohesion; and analysed the interaction between economic, political and social forces in the process of development. The project, which concluded in 2014, organized a major workshop and delivered 19 working papers.

63. **International Satoyama Initiative**. This UNU-IAS initiative promotes the maintenance and rebuilding of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes for the benefit of biodiversity and human well-being. The Initiative hosts the secretariat of the 158-member International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative, and is working with IGES to analyse and systematize more than 70 case studies that are expected to contribute to United Nations processes towards the post-2015 development agenda. A toolkit on the indicators of resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes, developed by the Initiative in collaboration with Biodiversity International, the United Nations Development Programme and IGES, was launched in November at the World Parks Congress 2014 of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. The Initiative has also been heavily involved in reconstruction efforts after the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and related disasters of 2011, especially in the Urato Islands; this effort is expected to feed into larger processes related to disaster risk reduction.

64. **IS Academy for Migration and Development**. This academy, a multi-year project of UNU-MERIT and the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands, sought to refine and strengthen development cooperation policies via input from both academics and policymakers. The intent was to generate new approaches to poverty reduction and sustainable development that could feed into more effective policies, as well as reinforce the scientific foundations of policymaking in migration and development while strengthening the policy relevance of research into migration and development. The project, which concluded in 2014, produced 19 policy briefs, five country reports and a policy report, and made presentations at several major conferences.

65. **Research and Communication on Foreign Aid**. This UNU-WIDER programme, completed in 2014, produced a significant number of research outputs,

including 220 UNU-WIDER working papers and 176 peer-reviewed publications. The programme website features research summaries, videos, event information and position papers. UNU-WIDER researchers presented programme lessons at various seminars, and some of the programme's findings have fed directly into the development strategies of Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

B. Global change and sustainable development

66. **Climate Change, Agricultural Trade and Food Security in Countries of ECOWAS**. This two-year project, by UNU-INRA in collaboration with the African Climate Policy Centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, seeks to assess whether agricultural production systems and trade policies in the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) can be adjusted to cope with the impact of climate change on food security so as to promote sustainable development. The project has analysed the feasibility of the study through 13 country assessments, methodological assessment and stakeholder consultations. Information collected during the process will be combined with the country profiles to conceptualize an appropriate analytical framework.

67. **Development under Climate Change**. This UNU-WIDER project was selected as "one to watch" by the United Nations Big Data Climate Challenge (part of the build-up to the Secretary-General's climate summit in September). A key task for helping policymakers in developing countries to address the long-term uncertainties of climate change is to translate scientific and biophysical processes into economic outcomes. The project addresses this challenge by using an analytical framework that traces the economic implications of climate change. The framework has already been applied to several countries.

68. **Economics of Land Degradation**. This initiative, by UNU-INWEH in partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, is conducting a global study on the economic benefits of land and land-based ecosystems. The aim is to make the economics of land degradation an integral part of policy strategies and decision-making by increasing political and public awareness. UNU-INWEH, as scientific coordinator for the initiative, has developed three primary reports, for scientific communities, the private sector, and policymakers/decision makers. The third scientific meeting on the economics of land degradation was held in June, in Nairobi.

69. **IPBES Assessments and Capacity-Building**. Since 2011, UNU-IAS has led development of the assessment process for the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) through a series of international scientific expert workshops, in collaboration with UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governments of Japan, South Africa and the Republic of Korea. The project's official working document on the IPBES conceptual framework, supplemented by information documents on indigenous and local knowledge systems and the Asia-Pacific regional assessment, contributed significantly to the development of the IPBES conceptual framework and its work programme 2014-2018. In September-October, UNU-IAS conducted a postgraduate intensive training course specifically designed to contribute to the capacity-building

function of IPBES. UNU-IAS researchers are active participants in several IPBES task forces and expert groups.

70. **Joint research projects in Africa**. UNU-FLORES is undertaking four joint research projects in Africa: Productivity in Low-Fertility Areas and Climate Change (with UNU-INRA), Drought and Flood Risk Management (with the University of the Free State, South Africa), Integrated Water and Waste Management (with the University of Mauritius) and Soil Functioning and Food Production (with the University of Agriculture, United Republic of Tanzania). The overall aim is to review, synthesize and develop national and regional visions to promote sustainable development in African countries through situational analysis of specified countries/regions, determine gaps, and identify both challenges to and opportunities for progress.

71. **Munich Climate Insurance Initiative**. Through this initiative, launched in 2005 by Munich Re and hosted by UNU-EHS, a consortium of insurers, climate change and adaptation experts, non-governmental organizations and policy researchers is exploring the role that insurance solutions can play in adaptation to climate change. The focus is on the risks posed by climate change, both on the negotiating floor and on the ground in developing countries. UNU-EHS facilitates current projects, coordinates input into the individual projects, and ensures constant feedback of lessons learned into the climate negotiations process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Initiative hosted a side event during the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in December.

72. **Potential of African Grass Species in Healing Industrial and Domestic Sickwater**. This study, by UNU-INRA in collaboration with Ebonyi State University (Nigeria), seeks to assess the potential of grass for removing effluents from industrial and domestic sickwater (contaminated) sources that are increasingly becoming an important resource for such uses as crop irrigation. A phytoengineering treatment plant has been set up using the African species of vetiver grass for a variety of industrial and urban effluents. The next step will be training and sensitization to encourage adaptation of the vetiver technology for cleaning wastewater.

73. **Water-related Sustainable Development Goals**. UNU-INWEH has continued its engagement in the deliberations around the post-2015 development agenda, particularly those pertaining to water, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, Global Water Partnership and McMaster University. Building on previous work on water-related sustainable development goals, UNU-INWEH undertook a country-level analysis of 11 countries in Africa, Latin America, North America and South-East Asia with the aim of facilitating ongoing negotiations by providing evidence-based information. A two-day expert consultation was held in Hamilton in October to discuss the analyses. The project's final report will be presented at United Nations Headquarters in February 2015, in collaboration with the Department for Economic and Social Affairs and the Office for Sustainable Development.

74. **Water Yield Response to Changes in Land Use and Climate in a Semi-humid/-arid Transition Region**. This research project, by UNU-FLORES in cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Forestry and the Dresden University of Technology, focuses on the Jinghe Basin of north-west China. While afforestation

has been implemented as an effective way to conserve soil and water in degraded regions of semi-arid north-west China, this has been accompanied by a drastic reduction in water yield and lower water quality. This project evaluates land management strategies with respect to water yield and soil/water conservation goals. The results will be combined with scenarios of climate change to assess potential consequences on hydrological processes and accordingly modify and assess management strategies.

75. **West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change**. This large-scale effort seeks to develop effective climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. Its three principal components are a competence centre, a core research programme and a graduate research programme. UNU-EHS is responsible for the Centre's work package on "risk assessment and analysis" and is supporting the development of an MSc programme on climate change and human security at the University of Lomé. Outputs include a journal article, a database on floods and droughts, and a summary paper highlighting data gaps and proposing a strategy to unify data collection in West Africa.

76. **World Risk Report**. The *2014 World Risk Report*, by UNU-EHS and the Alliance Development Works/Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft, presents a "disaster risk" ranking of 171 countries around the world based on analyses of each country's vulnerability and exposure to natural hazards. The main focus is the threat from, or exposure to, key natural hazards and the effects of climate change, as well as social vulnerability in the form of each population's susceptibility and capacity to cope/adapt. The report incorporates the World Risk Index, developed by UNU-EHS, which shows the level of risk for individual countries and provides a global overview. The special focus of the 2014 edition of the report was on "cities as an area of risk".

C. Peace, security and human rights

77. **Governmental Digital Surveillance**. A comparative analysis of human rights safeguards in national regimes overseeing digital surveillance, conducted by UNU-ONY, provided the basis for a ground-breaking report on "The right to privacy in the digital age", published in August by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

78. **Justice and Security**. In the latter part of the year, at the request of the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNU-ONY prepared a strategy non-paper to help improve that office's service delivery. The study provided recommendations on how that office could become more "fit for purpose" in delivering on its mandate and responsibilities, and proposed ideas for refining strategic decision-making, planning and execution.

79. **Migration, Media and Intercultural Dialogue**. UNU-GCM completed work on this research project in 2014. The project explored the extent to which the media can bridge cultural differences in the context of migration and facilitate intercultural dialogue. Outputs included a series of 10 policy reports, scholarly articles and online articles, as well as a workshop and a two-day international conference.

80. **Statelessness and Transcontinental Migration**. This UNU-GCM project, now in its final phase, focuses on a range of issues related to the well-being and recognition of people who migrate, traverse continents and attempt relocation devoid of citizenship. Outputs have included a two-day international conference, eight policy reports and several scholarly articles.

D. Population and health

81. **Indoor Air Quality and Asthma and Allergy among Malaysian Schoolchildren**. The aim of this project, a joint effort of UNU-IIGH, Uppsala University and Universiti Putra Malaysia, is to study the relationship between exposures to school indoor air pollution and asthma, allergy and respiratory symptoms among secondary schoolchildren. The project has conducted three field studies. Outputs include three journal articles. The project has secured additional research funding from the Swedish Research Council for the period 2014-2016.

82. **Innovative Wastewater Management and Reuse**. This project addresses four interconnected aspects of wastewater management: applied research, policy-relevant study (at global, regional and country levels), capacity development activities and knowledge-based synthesis of existing research. With funding from Grand Challenges Canada, UNU-INWEH is working in partnership with the Government of Uganda and a number of non-governmental organizations in Canada and Uganda to develop robust and scalable technologies as well as an innovative business model to tap private-sector resources for sustainable wastewater management.

83. **Poverty Reduction and Regional Integration: A Comparative Analysis of SADC and UNASUR Health Policies**. This international research project seeks to understand, in the context of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), what institutional practices and methods of regional policy formation are conducive to the development of pro-poor health policies. The intent is to inform decision makers and relevant stakeholders on how to develop policies and interventions that improve equity and access to health. The project is being undertaken by UNU-CRIS in cooperation with the Open University (United Kingdom) and partners in Argentina, South Africa and the United Kingdom; it is funded by the United Kingdom Economic and Social Research Council and Department for International Development.

84. **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) for Women and Children**. The UNU-INWEH project seeks to directly address water-health linkages in an integrated and effective manner. The overarching goal is to ensure that local governments, non-governmental organizations and community leaders have the knowledge, capacity and will to implement and practice sustainable WaSH in order to ensure good public health and well-being.

E. Science, technology and society

85. **Establishing and Sustaining the Government Chief Information Officer Function in Colombia**. This project, which seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Colombia for utilizing digital technology to advance public service delivery and public policy implementation, is a collaboration between UNU-EGOV,

the Colombian Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, and the National University of Colombia. UNU-EGOV provided the methodology for executing the project, and assists in its methodological aspects, human capacity activities and local/international collaboration efforts. Legal instruments produced by the project for establishing the function of Chief Information Officer in the executive branch of the Government of Colombia are undergoing a formal approval process.

86. **European Union Innovation Scoreboard**. Since 2001, funded by the European Commission, UNU-MERIT has been undertaking an annual comparative assessment of the research and innovation performance of European Union member States. The scoreboard also covers, for a more limited number of indicators, 10 non-European countries. The 2014 report was delivered at a joint press conference with three European Union Commissioners.

Refocusing UNU research

87. Recognizing that possibilities for synergies between UNU institutes are greater when research efforts are more focused, the UNU strategic plan 2015-2019 calls for narrowing the global UNU work programme from the five thematic clusters described above to three, namely:

- Peace and governance
- Global socioeconomic development, innovation and inclusion
- Climate and energy

88. As resources permit, these new thematic clusters may be supplemented by other substantive areas of research such as demography and migration or higher education policy.

VI. Postgraduate education

89. UNU offers specialized training opportunities for young scholars, researchers and professionals. These encompass MSc and PhD degree programmes, other advanced training programmes, fellowships/internships, training courses and workshops, and project-based capacity development. Fulfilling the needs of students from developing countries is a particular focus of UNU educational efforts.

Postgraduate degree programmes

90. UNU had four active MSc degree programmes in 2014, attended by 184 students (85 male, 99 female), of whom 39 per cent were from developing countries:

- MSc in sustainability science (by UNU-IAS, 16 students; prior to the UNU-ISP/UNU-IAS merger, this was the MSc programme in sustainability, development and peace)
- MSc in environmental governance with specialization in biodiversity (by UNU-IAS; this programme was closed late in November following the graduation of its last cohort of four students)

- Joint MSc in the geography of environmental risks and human security (by UNU-EHS in collaboration with the University of Bonn, 49 students)
- Double MSc in public policy and human development (UNU-MERIT in collaboration with Maastricht University, 107 students)

91. It is anticipated that, by the end of 2015, all of the UNU master's degree programmes will hold internationally recognized accreditation.

92. UNU also offered a PhD programme in sustainability science (by UNU-IAS, eight students).

93. A new collaborative PhD programme in integrated management of water, soil and waste, jointly implemented by UNU-FLORES and the Dresden University of Technology, will launch in April 2015.

94. UNU also collaborates with other universities to help support developing country students enrolled in specialized master's and doctoral degree programmes.

Non-degree courses

95. UNU offers advanced training opportunities that range in length from a few days to six months; some enable students to earn credit towards a degree, while others provide a UNU certificate upon completion. In 2014, UNU offered 94 non-degree courses and programmes that were attended by more than 2,300 students. These included:

96. Short-term courses (77):

- Postgraduate course on renewable energy (UNU-IAS; 2-25 April)
- Multidisciplinary approaches to emerging infectious diseases (UNU-BIOLAC; 7-10 April)
- Urbanization and health: systems approaches (UNU-IIGH; 2-6 June)
- Summer school on human capital (UNU-MERIT; 14-18 July)
- UNU intensive core courses (UNU-IAS; 8 September-14 October)
- Design and evaluation of innovation policies (UNU-MERIT; 6-10 October)
- Postgraduate course on leadership for sustainability (UNU-IAS; 14-28 October)
- International training course on mangrove biodiversity and ecosystems (UNU-INWEH; 27 October-10 November)
- Short-term training on environmental journalism (UNU-INRA; 3-14 November)
- Millennium short course in East Africa: "Exploration and development of geothermal energy" (UNU-GTP; 2-23 November)

97. Long-term courses/programmes (17):

- Gender equality studies and training programme (UNU-GEST; January-May)
- Economics of land degradation: open online course (UNU-INWEH; March-May)

- Land restoration training programme (UNU-LRT; March-September)
- Migration management diploma programme (UNU-MERIT; April-June)
- Geothermal training programme (UNU-GTP, April-October)
- Fisheries training programme (UNU-FTP; September-February 2015)
- Climate, energy and food security (UNU-IAS; September-January 2015)

Capacity development

98. UNU also seeks to enhance the education and research capacities of developing countries, and to provide additional advanced training opportunities for young researchers, through project-based capacity development. Of the projects implemented by UNU in 2014, 22 were focused on capacity development, while almost 100 others had a capacity development component. The projects included:

- Building Ecosystem Capacities (UNU-INWEH)
- Capacity Development on Mental Well-being and Disability (UNU-IIGH)
- Development of a Toolbox for Operationalizing Green Economy Transitions at a Sub-National Level in Africa (UNU-INRA)
- Development of International Water Quality Guidelines for Ecosystems (UNU-EHS)
- Global Leadership Training Programme in Africa (UNU-IAS)
- Monitoring and Management of Persistent Organic Pollutants in Asia (UNU-IAS)
- Regional Growth and Development in Southern Africa (UNU-WIDER)

VII. Events

99. UNU seeks to maximize the impact of its work by convening public conferences, seminars, symposiums, lectures and workshops. These events provide a venue for sharing knowledge, offer valuable networking opportunities, and help to put a personal face on UNU for the general public. Among events of special note in 2014 were the following:

100. **United Nations climate summit thematic session**. On 23 September, as part of the Secretary-General's climate summit 2014, UNU hosted a thematic session on the theme "The economic case for climate action" at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The session, organized by UNU-CPR in partnership with UNU-EHS and UNU-ONY, was co-chaired by the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Hailemariam Dessalegn, and moderated by the Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Angel Gurría. Some 200 high-level representatives of government, civil society and academia attended, including several prominent figures in the climate debate.

101. **UNU Conversation Series**. During the year, 13 events were held as part of the public UNU Conversation Series at UNU Headquarters in Tokyo. At those events, hosted and moderated by the UNU Rector, influential experts, world leaders and respected scholars share personal insights on contemporary global issues and engage

with the audience. Speakers in 2014 included the Minister of Finance of Timor-Leste, Emilia Pires; the former President of Slovenia, Danilo Türk; the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota; Glen S. Fukushima, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress; Sir Lawrence Freedman, Professor at King's College London; and the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel, Miguel de Serpa Soares.

102. **UNESCO events**. In response to a request by the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, for more "debates of ideas", the UNU Rector tasked the UNU Office at UNESCO with reinvigorating such debates by organizing two public conferences each year. In 2014, these were on the themes "21st century wars (2003-2014): the right to intervene, the responsibility to protect. What next?" (27 February) and "The other tragedy: war, revolution and world heritage sites" (12 June). Both conferences were presided over by the Director-General of UNESCO and featured keynote lectures by major global experts and actors.

103. Other significant occasions among the 379 public events convened by UNU in 2014 included:

- "Addressing the persistence of gender inequalities in conflict prevention and peace processes" (4 and 5 April); a conference organized by UNU-GEST and the University of Iceland to stimulate critical thinking in advance of the 2015 high-level review of progress on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).
- "'Governance', 'education' and the architecture of the sustainable development goals" (22 May at United Nations Headquarters); a policy forum organized by UNU-IAS to inform the discussions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.
- "The European Union in international affairs" (22-24 May); a conference co-organized by UNU-CRIS.
- "Statelessness and transcontinental migration" (27 and 28 July) and "Les révolutions arabes: état des lieux" ("The Arab revolutions: the current situation"; 2 and 3 June); conferences organized and co-hosted, respectively, by UNU-GCM.
- "Institutional reforms for transformation, inclusion, and sustainability" (29 and 30 June, Hanoi) and "Inequality: measurement, trends, impact, and policies" (5 and 6 September, Helsinki); development conferences organized by UNU-WIDER.
- "Reviving Chapter VIII" (29 and 30 September, Bruges); a conference hosted by UNU-CRIS that focused on enhancing cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.
- "Rising income inequality: trends — and measures to prevent and reverse it" (22 October, Geneva); a policy seminar co-organized by UNU-WIDER.
- "The rise of data post-2015 — empowered citizens, accountable institutions" (27-30 October): the eighth International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV2014), co-organized by UNU-EGOV.
- "Managing structural transformation post-2015" (18 November, at United Nations Headquarters): the eighteenth UNU-WIDER annual lecture, featuring C. Peter Timmer.

- "Future perspectives on innovation and governance in development" (26-28 November, Maastricht), organized by UNU-MERIT.
- "Mental well-being, disability and disaster risk reduction" (27 and 28 November, Tokyo); a United Nations expert group meeting co-organized by UNU-IIGH to provide input into the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in 2015.

VIII. Communication and dissemination

104. UNU disseminates information about its research and activities through both print and electronic media. The focus of UNU communication and dissemination is on:

(a) Informing policymakers, practitioners and scholars about the details of UNU research;

(b) Providing non-specialist audiences, including the general public, with an overview of UNU efforts to address current and emerging issues;

(c) "Translating" relevant information into a form that can be easily understood and utilized by high-level decision makers and policymakers.

105. The aim of UNU communication and dissemination is to get relevant information to the "right" audiences, in the most useful form and in a timely manner.

106. In 2014, UNU researchers published 34 books and 81 chapters in edited volumes, 233 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 44 other articles, and 13 special journal issues. UNU also published 304 working and discussion papers, 34 policy briefs, and 51 research/technology briefs (most of which are available on UNU websites) as well as numerous website articles, videos/podcasts, proceedings and conference papers, and other publications.

107. UNU websites received more than 6.77 million page views by some 2.85 million users in 2014. Top among the websites of the UNU system in terms of page views were the main unu.edu website (3.31 million), Our World (838,000), UNU-MERIT (814,000) and UNU-IAS (686,000).

108. UNU also utilizes the major social media channels. At the end of the year, UNU had more than 40,400 followers on Twitter — led by UNU Centre (22,745), Our World (6,531), UNU-WIDER (1,913) and UNU-MERIT (1,406). UNU also had more than 37,000 "likes" on Facebook, led by UNU Centre (11,109), Our World (6,510), the UNU Japanese Twitter account (4,107), UNU-MERIT (4,033) and UNU-IAS (3,800).

109. The main UNU YouTube channel had more than 5,150 subscribers, and the more than 400 videos that it hosts have been viewed some 5.4 million times to date. In 2014, videos on the channel were viewed more than 370,000 times — equivalent to 1.4 million minutes watched. The YouTube Channels of UNU-MERIT and UNU-WIDER also continued to grow in 2014 (375 and 270 subscribers, respectively).

IX. Financial and human resources

110. UNU receives no funds from the regular United Nations budget; it relies on contributions — from host Governments of the University's institutes, foundations, agencies, international organizations and other sources — and investment income from the UNU endowment fund. In 2014, UNU received $46.9 million in contributions from 22 Governments and some 112 other sources.

111. The estimated UNU budget for the 2014–2015 biennium is $131.4 million: $47.8 million of special programme contributions, $37.0 million of operating contributions, $32.8 million of endowment fund income, and cumulative surplus carried forward/other income of $13.8 million.

112. It is intended that this budget will be expended during the biennium on academic activities ($66.0 million), personnel costs ($41.8 million) and general expenses ($23.6 million, including a one-time assignment of $2.1 million for the refurbishment of the UNU headquarters building).

113. These budget projections were formulated with extreme prudence; any additional contributions received during the biennium will be used to support existing or new academic activities.

Personnel

114. UNU enjoys a unique blend of human assets. UNU staff members have expertise in research that spans a wide range of vital issues, and in effective analysis, "knowledge translation" and communication.

115. As at the end of 2014, the global UNU system had a personnel complement of 479 (35 per cent were developing country nationals; 44 per cent were women).

Annex

Members of the Council of the United Nations University

Mohamed H. A. Hassan (Sudan), Chair of the UNU Council

Nobuyasu Abe (Japan), Commissioner of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission

Jean-Pierre Bourguignon (France), President of the European Research Council

Rahma Bourqia (Morocco), Director, National Evaluation Authority of the Education System, Training and Scientific Research, Morocco

Cristovam Buarque (Brazil), Member of the Brazilian Senate

Fiona Caldicott (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Immediate Past Principal of Somerville College, University of Oxford

Gajaraj Dhanarajan (Malaysia), Chairman, Board of Governors at Wawasan Open University

Zellynne Doloris Jennings-Craig (Jamaica), Former Director of the School of Education/Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the University of the West Indies

Jin Xiaoming (China), Director General of the Department of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Science and Technology

Konstantin Khudoley (Russian Federation), Chief of the European Studies Department, School of International Relations, Saint Petersburg State University

Lily Kong (Singapore), Vice-Provost for Academic Personnel at the National University of Singapore

Lydia Shouleva (Bulgaria), Managing Partner of Business Intellect, Ltd.

Mala Singh (South Africa), Professor Extraordinaire at the Centre for Higher Education Research, Teaching and Learning at Rhodes University

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Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), prepared pursuant to Council resolution 2013/11.

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Report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/11, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to transmit, at the substantive session of 2015, a report prepared by the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on progress made in implementing a coordinated response by the United Nations system to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The global community has been presented with an historic opportunity. Dramatic scientific advances, combined with more than three decades of experience in scaling up HIV programmes, have cleared a way forward to end AIDS as a public health threat once and for all. In 2013 and 2014, UNAIDS focused its efforts on accelerating progress towards the 2015 targets set out in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, in support of the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 3 to 6 and 8, and on galvanizing global action towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Its efforts built on major gains in the HIV/AIDS response, including substantial declines in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths.

Uniting and synergizing the efforts of 11 co-sponsors and the secretariat, the Joint Programme has helped to lead and coordinate the global AIDS effort. Advocacy by UNAIDS has kept AIDS high on the global political agenda and inspired a growing roster of low- and middle-income countries to increase domestic funding for the response. Normative guidance by the Joint Programme has assisted countries in implementing evidence-based programmes and in leveraging rapidly evolving scientific knowledge. UNAIDS has remained the central provider of strategic information on the epidemic and the response at the global, regional and country levels. It has also served as a consistent and vocal advocate for an inclusive response grounded in human rights and gender equality and for equitable service access for key populations and vulnerable groups. UNAIDS-supported innovation at the country level has helped to overcome service barriers and roll out new scientific advances, and the Joint Programme is a global leader in galvanizing and supporting the mobilization of communities affected by the epidemic. By leveraging the comparative advantages of diverse United Nations bodies and partners, UNAIDS plays a unique role in strengthening multisectoral responses.

Encouraging progress notwithstanding, the AIDS epidemic is not over. A majority of people living with HIV are still not receiving antiretroviral therapy, in part because more than 50 per cent of people living with HIV do not know their serostatus. While declining globally, new HIV infections are rising in some countries, in particular where services are not prioritized for most-affected populations. Although there are increasing domestic resources for the response, donor assistance for AIDS declined in 2013.

Modelling led by the Joint Programme shows that accelerated action and front-loaded investments over the next five years can bring the AIDS epidemic to an end. In response, the Joint Programme is assisting countries in developing and

implementing ambitious fast-track targets for 2020, including a new HIV treatment target to maximize the proportion of people living with HIV who achieve viral suppression, and complementary prevention and non-discrimination targets beyond 2015. New resources will be needed to reach these targets, and smart investments will be required, in line with the principles of shared responsibility and global solidarity. A fast-track response will necessitate an inclusive, people-centred approach that effectively reaches those being left behind. As part of this population- and location-focused response, in 2014, the Joint Programme launched a new initiative to catalyse action by cities to mobilize municipal resources towards the goal of ending the epidemic.

To ensure its readiness to successfully navigate a rapidly evolving global landscape and to lay the foundation to end the epidemic by 2030, the Joint Programme is working to develop a new UNAIDS strategy for the period 2016-2021, with the aim of ensuring that it is "fit for purpose" for the post-2015 era. Consistent with the multidimensional nature of the AIDS challenge, steps to end AIDS as a public health threat need to be mainstreamed across the sustainable development goals. UNAIDS and the broader AIDS response also offer important lessons that can strengthen and sustain global health and development efforts more generally. In 2016, the General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS, which will offer a potentially transformative opportunity to strengthen global resolve and redouble strategic efforts to bring the epidemic to an end.

I. Update on the global AIDS epidemic

1. Substantial advances continue to be recorded in the global AIDS response. The number of people newly infected with HIV in 2013 (2.1 million (1.9 million-2.4 million)) was 38 per cent lower than in 2001. In 2013, 1.5 million (1.4 million-1.7 million) people died of AIDS-related causes, down 35 per cent from the peak in 2005. In 2013, the number of children newly infected with HIV (240,000 (210,000-280,000)) represented a 58 per cent decline from 2002.

2. AIDS nevertheless remains the sixth cause of death globally, the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa and the leading cause of death worldwide among women of reproductive age. As at December 2013, some 35 million (33.2 million-37.2 million) people were living with HIV. Sub-Saharan Africa remains most heavily affected, accounting for 71 per cent of people living with HIV and 68 per cent of new HIV infections in 2013. Women represent 52 per cent of all people living with HIV globally and 57 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa. In some countries, young women aged 15 to 19 are up to five times more likely to be living with HIV than their male counterparts. Several populations are disproportionately affected by the epidemic: globally, men who have sex with men are 19 times more likely to be living with HIV than the general population; HIV prevalence is almost 12 times higher among sex workers than among the population as a whole; and transgender women are 49 times more likely to acquire HIV than all adults of reproductive age. Globally, 13 per cent of all people who inject drugs are living with HIV.

3. Persistent gaps in the response contribute to the continuing severity of the epidemic. As at June 2014, more than 60 per cent of all people living with HIV were not receiving antiretroviral therapy, in large part because more than half of all people living with HIV do not know their HIV status. While 38 per cent of adults living with HIV obtained antiretroviral therapy in 2013, only 24 per cent of children living with HIV received treatment. In many countries, key populations and other vulnerable groups continue to be left behind in the response, while gender inequality, criminalization and other human rights violations remain significant barriers to progress.

II. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

4. As the only co-sponsored Joint Programme in the United Nations, UNAIDS[1] is a tangible example of a collaborative, multisectoral response to a complex and multifaceted issue. In its resolution E/RES/2013/11, the Economic and Social Council specifically recognized the value of the lessons learned from the unique approach of the Joint Programme for the post-2015 development agenda and that the Joint Programme offers the United Nations a useful example, to be considered as a

[1] The Joint Programme draws on the experience and expertise of 11 co-sponsors, namely, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank, and a secretariat.

way to enhance strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus and country-level impact, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. As reflected in its inclusive governing structure, the Joint Programme represents a commitment to robust multisectoral and integrated action, synergistic partnerships, evidence- and rights-based action, equality in access and outcomes and a focus on sustainability.

A. Getting to zero: the UNAIDS 2011-2015 strategy and the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS

5. The work of the Joint Programme is inspired and guided by the vision, set forth in the UNAIDS 2011-2015 Strategy: Getting to Zero, of a world with zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. Providing a framework for the Joint Programme's collective efforts, the strategy is aimed at revolutionizing HIV prevention, catalysing the next phase of treatment, care and support and advancing human rights and gender equality in the response. Under the strategy, UNAIDS established goals for 2011-2015 that are aligned with the key targets and commitments of the 2011 Political Declaration.

6. Supporting countries to develop and implement strategies towards "getting to zero", the Joint Programme advanced and led the compilation of the most extensive and focused data collection available on HIV epidemic and response trends and specific populations at high risk of HIV infection, including through three flagship reports in 2014: *The Gap Report*; *Fast-Track: Ending the AIDS Epidemic by 2030*; and *UNAIDS OUTLOOK: The Cities Report*. A total of 181 Member States submitted national reports in 2014 as part of the global AIDS response progress reporting. UNAIDS also requested reporting for key programmes on a biannual basis and for subnational entities, thereby promoting an even more focused programming approach. Increased availability of real-time data was achieved through the use of new technology.

7. Taking into account UNAIDS-commissioned modelling indicating that the next five years represent a critical window of opportunity to lay the groundwork towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board asked the Executive Director of UNAIDS to undertake a multi-stakeholder consultative process to update and extend the UNAIDS 2011-2015 strategy through 2016-2021. The Programme Coordinating Board reaffirmed the commitment to the UNAIDS vision of the three zeros and the strategic directions in the 2011-2015 strategy and requested that the updated strategy be aligned with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (General Assembly resolution 67/226), taking account of the 2011 Political Declaration and ongoing discussions on the post-2015 sustainable development goals. The updated UNAIDS strategy for the period 2016-2021 and a new Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework for the six-year period will be submitted to the Programme Coordinating Board at its 37th meeting in October 2015.

8. In June 2014, the General Assembly decided to convene a high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS in 2016. The meeting provides an important opportunity to shape and accelerate the next phase of the AIDS response, driving results and accountability.

B. Delivering as one

9. The Joint Programme works to ensure that the United Nations system "delivers as one" in supporting national AIDS responses, in line with and responding to the General Assembly resolution on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. UNAIDS has a clear division of labour among the 11 co-sponsors and the secretariat. With the aim of leveraging the core competencies, mandates and comparative advantages for technical support provision of each co-sponsor and the secretariat, the division of labour designates convening and partner agencies in 15 thematic areas.[2] The division of labour helps the Joint Programme to avoid duplication and harness collaboration and coordination and clarifies roles and responsibilities.

10. At the regional and country levels, the Joint Programme is operationalized through joint teams and joint support programmes, supported and coordinated through seven UNAIDS secretariat regional support teams.

11. At the country level, the UNAIDS Country Director works under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator to advance the United Nations country team's coordinated response to AIDS. In 74 countries, joint United Nations teams on AIDS are in place, enhancing coherence, accountability and the strategic impact of technical support. In many countries, joint teams have been expanded to include non-United Nations partners, broadening the coordination of technical support. In 52 countries, United Nations partners have implemented joint United Nations programmes of support on AIDS, integrating the entirety of the United Nations system's support for the national response into a single framework. In 2013, the Joint Programme supported 120 countries in undertaking midterm reviews of progress towards the 10 global targets and commitments of the 2011 Political Declaration, allowing a clearer understanding of persistent gaps and opportunities to accelerate gains.

12. Particular steps have been taken to intensify coordination and enhance the strategic impact of United Nations AIDS assistance in 38 high-impact countries[3] that, together, account for 85 per cent of new adult infections, 93 per cent of new infections among children and 90 per cent of AIDS-related deaths.

C. Accountability

13. The UNAIDS 2011-2015 strategy is operationalized by the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, which maximizes the coherence,

[2] The 15 thematic areas are prevention of sexual transmission; prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission; HIV treatment; HIV/tuberculosis; prevention among people who inject drugs; prevention among men who have sex with men, sex workers and transgender people; punitive laws, stigma and discrimination; meeting the needs of women and girls; prevention among young people; HIV-related social protection; HIV in humanitarian emergencies; HIV, food and nutrition; workplace and the private sector; HIV and education; and national strategic planning.

[3] The 38 high-impact countries are Angola, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

coordination, impact and accountability of the United Nations response to AIDS. Outlining key actions, strategic directions and funding allocations cascading from the strategy's goals and from the 2011 Political Declaration targets and commitments, the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework provides the whole results chain from inputs to impact and allows Member States and other stakeholders to hold the Joint Programme accountable. The co-sponsors receive resources through the Framework to contribute to their work on AIDS. This funding serves as a catalyst for leveraging greater resources from the budgets of the co-sponsor organizations and other funding streams.

14. The UNAIDS performance monitoring report submitted annually to the Programme Coordinating Board summarizes the achievements of the Joint Programme across the 10 targets at the country, regional and global levels towards the vision of the three zeros and outlines key challenges and lessons learned. The report provides an understanding of the contributions of the Joint Programme as a whole and of individual co-sponsors and the secretariat.

15. Performance reporting under the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework has been facilitated through a web-based tool, the Joint Programme Monitoring System, introduced in 2012. The system, which received reports from 106 United Nations country teams and/or UNAIDS country offices in 2013, has increased the ability of the Joint Programme to make rapid adjustments in response to performance information. Annual peer reviews evaluate progress and performance, identify areas where additional efforts are needed and ensure that lessons learned are taken on board for future planning.

16. In 2014, at the request of the Programme Coordinating Board at its 32nd meeting, UNAIDS reported the results of a midterm review of progress under the 2011-2015 Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, drawing on external assessments of UNAIDS from almost 150 stakeholders. The midterm review found that UNAIDS has made significant contributions to the global AIDS response through such key functions as leadership, advocacy, strategic information, targeted country-level technical support, strengthened accountability and a focus on high-impact countries and key populations. It also confirmed that the coherence and effectiveness of the Joint Programme have improved under the Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework.

17. The Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework for 2016-2021 will be aligned with the planning cycles of United Nations funds and programmes, as mandated by the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

D. Partnership

18. Itself an innovative partnership within the United Nations system, the Joint Programme prioritizes partnership as a core value, convening transformative, inclusive partnerships to unite the United Nations, Governments, people living with HIV, civil society, major financing institutions, academia, science, the media, influential public figures and the private sector. The Joint Programme's approach to partnerships has achieved historic results, including a 99 per cent drop in the cost of lifesaving antiretroviral medicines over the past 10 years and a reduction in the time

required to introduce new medical innovations in resource-limited settings, from 15 years to 3 years.

19. In 2014, UNAIDS signed a new memorandum of understanding with one of its most important strategic partners, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The Joint Programme supports the Global Fund through participation in country coordinating mechanisms, the publication of normative guidance, the provision of strategic information, assistance to countries to translate national strategies or investment cases into compelling concept notes, and the provision of technical support through the full funding cycle, including by assisting countries in implementing and monitoring Global Fund grants.

20. UNAIDS also works closely with the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the leading provider of international HIV assistance, to ensure the success of programmes funded by the Emergency Plan. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief participates in numerous inter-agency mechanisms coordinated by the Joint Programme.

21. The Joint Programme prioritizes partnerships with non-governmental organizations. It is the only United Nations entity with civil society represented on its governing body. It assists different civil society actors, including people living with HIV and key affected communities, in participating fully and meaningfully in decision-making, advocacy and accountability. In addition, it helps to define and promote civil society's strategic role in the delivery of HIV-related services.

22. The Joint Programme has entered into an array of innovative partnerships with civil society organizations and networks, such as PACT, a coalition of 26 organizations serving — and led by — young people that was established with the aim of reigniting the AIDS youth movement. UNAIDS also prioritizes partnership with the private sector, including within governance, as reflected by the participation of the chief executive officers of GlaxoSmithKline and Cipla in the 34th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board.

III. Towards the 2015 deadline: results in 10 priority areas

23. In the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, Member States embraced a series of 10 outcome targets or commitments.

A. Reduce sexual transmission of HIV by 50 per cent

24. The reduction in sexual transmission of HIV is primarily responsible for the sharp declines in new HIV infections in recent years. Compared with surveys from 2001-2006, household surveys in sub-Saharan Africa in 2007-2013 indicate an increase in young people's HIV-related knowledge and greater condom use among adults. Voluntary medical male circumcision, which reduces the risk of female-to-male sexual HIV transmission by about 60 per cent, is being scaled up, with 6 million men in sub-Saharan Africa having been circumcised since 2007, including 1 million in 2013. The Joint Programme has closely collaborated with international partners to focus scarce resources on geographic and population "hotspots" where new HIV infections are most likely to occur.

25. Despite progress, there were still 2.1 million new HIV infections in 2013, with increases in infections in a number of regions and geographical locations within countries and among certain population groups. Stronger HIV prevention efforts are urgently needed among young people (ages 15 to 24), who in 2013 accounted for 31 per cent of all new HIV infections globally. Particular risks are faced by adolescent girls and young women, who on average acquire HIV five to seven years earlier than men in sub-Saharan Africa. Studies sponsored by the World Bank have found that various youth-focused cash transfer schemes reduce HIV incidence and sexual risk behaviour, with especially pronounced outcomes for young women. In 2014, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UNAIDS secretariat, with the engagement of all co-sponsors, initiated the "All in" agenda, to address the serious gaps in the AIDS response for adolescents. This effort has two bold objectives by 2020: to reduce HIV infections among adolescents by at least 75 per cent and to increase the number of adolescents living with HIV on lifesaving treatment to 80 per cent. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have supported the scale-up of sexuality education for young people in 115 countries, including joint efforts with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on peer education to address gender-based violence in schools. UNICEF spearheaded the collection and dissemination of strategic information focused on children and adolescents.

26. Although shipments of male condoms steadily increased, they have subsequently plateaued at a level substantially shy of the recommended levels. The availability of female condoms has significantly risen in recent years, although 40 male condoms are still shipped for every one female condom. To guide and incentivize manufacturers, the Joint Programme and key partners published generic specification and pre-qualification guidelines for female condoms. UNFPA is the world's leading purchaser of female condoms.

27. Despite their proven value, prevention services for key populations at higher risk continue to be lacking. Only about one third of countries report having programmes for sex workers, and the proportion of men who have sex with men reached by prevention programmes in 20 countries declined from 59 per cent in 2009 to 40 per cent in 2013. In an effort to strengthen evidence-based programmes for key populations, in 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued the first *Consolidated Guidelines on HIV Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment and Care for Key Populations* which, among other things, recommended the administration of pre-exposure antiretroviral prophylaxis for men and transgender women who have sex with men, as well as for serodiscordant couples.

28. The evidence base for the prevention of sexual HIV transmission continues to evolve. In early 2015, multiple multi-country studies were evaluating various "combination prevention" packages and an array of candidate microbicides for women. In 35 countries, joint United Nations teams on AIDS aided the translation of research on new prevention technologies into implementation and scale-up.

B. Reduce HIV transmission among people who inject drugs by 50 per cent

29. The world is not on track to halve the number of new HIV infections among people who inject drugs, with little change detected in the HIV burden in this population. Globally, an estimated 1.7 million of the 12.7 million people who inject drugs are living with HIV. HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is rising in Asia and the Pacific and in a number of sub-Saharan African countries. Drug injection-related transmission is driving national epidemics in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. In 30 countries surveyed, HIV prevalence is higher among women who inject drugs than among male injectors (13 per cent versus 9 per cent).

30. WHO normative guidance has identified a comprehensive package of nine priority interventions to reduce HIV infection among people who inject drugs. To support implementation, the Joint Programme provides extensive technical support and advocacy. In addition, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has collaborated with partners to identify 24 high-priority countries for intensified support in scaling up evidence-based responses for people who inject drugs.

31. Globally, however, coverage for needle and syringe programmes is still less than 20 per cent, and only 79 of 192 countries report offering opioid substitution therapy. Widespread criminalization of drug use, including the imposition of mandatory detention and even the death sentence for people convicted of drug violations in several countries, deters people who inject drugs from accessing essential services and discourages public health and human rights-grounded responses.

32. Responding to the need for strengthened action, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board devoted a full day at its 35th meeting, in December 2014, to discuss the acceleration of progress towards the goal of halving HIV transmission within this population. Participants explored factors undermining effective responses for people who inject drugs and showcased examples of successful national efforts to overcome impediments. The special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, to be held in 2016, offers a critical opportunity to build consensus for drug policies that better address the needs of people who inject drugs.

C. Eliminate new HIV infections among children and substantially reduce AIDS-related maternal and child deaths

33. In 2013, 67 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV received antiretroviral medicines. Progress continued in the first six months of 2014, with the number of pregnant women receiving antiretroviral medicines increasing by 13 per cent. The annual number of children newly infected with HIV in 21 high-burden countries fell below 200,000 for the first time in 2013. Globally, since 2009, more than 900,000 new HIV infections among children have been averted owing to the provision of antiretroviral medicines to pregnant women living with HIV.

34. Such advances reflect national success in implementing the recommendations of the Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive: 2011-2015. An inter-agency task team, co-convened by UNICEF and WHO, aligns work with 28 partners to the Global

Plan. In 2013, WHO recommended the immediate initiation of antiretroviral therapy for all pregnant women and children living with HIV, regardless of CD4 cell count.

35. Children living with HIV continue to experience limited access to lifesaving HIV treatment. In 2013, only 42 per cent of HIV-exposed children received early infant diagnostic services within the first two months of life, and studies indicate that up to half of children who undergo early infant diagnostic testing do not receive their test results. For those diagnosed with HIV, the array of antiretroviral regimens available is much more limited than the options available for adults.

36. The urgent need to close the treatment gap for children with HIV has spawned numerous initiatives. In 2014, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief partnered with the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, launching a $200 million initiative to double the number of children receiving antiretroviral therapy over two years in African countries. Jointly launched by UNICEF, WHO and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the Double Dividend initiative seeks to better align paediatric HIV treatment with maternal, neonatal and child health. Other partners are also collaborating on initiatives to improve the scale-up of HIV diagnostic and treatment services for children. At its 35th meeting, in December 2014, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board asked UNAIDS to work with relevant partners to establish a global platform for coordination of the various paediatric treatment initiatives to maximize coherence and impact.

D. Reach 15 million people living with HIV with antiretroviral therapy

37. As at June 2014, 13.6 million people were receiving antiretroviral therapy, putting the world on track to reach the global goal of providing HIV treatment to at least 15 million people by December 2015. Antiretroviral therapy has averted 7.6 million deaths globally since 1995, including 4.8 million deaths in sub-Saharan Africa, and has added 40.2 million life years since the beginning of the epidemic.

38. The Joint Programme provides extensive technical support to aid countries in scaling up high-quality HIV treatment services. The 2013 WHO *Consolidated Guidelines on the Use of Antiretroviral Drugs for Treating and Preventing HIV Infection* recommended earlier initiation of antiretroviral therapy; the use of optimally simple, potent and tolerable HIV treatment regimens; and the phase-out of suboptimal regimens. In 2013, research supported by the World Food Programme (WFP) advocated leveraging food and nutrition to improve HIV treatment outcomes, including adherence; WFP has implemented programmes in 31 countries. The UNAIDS secretariat has established an HIV treatment situation room, which uses modelling to estimate up-to-the-minute treatment scale-up and offers a granular analysis of treatment access to national partners and UNAIDS regional offices.

39. At its 33rd meeting, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board asked the Joint Programme to support country- and region-led processes to develop a new HIV treatment target for the post-2015 era. Following multi-constituency consultations in all regions and at the global level, the Joint Programme launched a new HIV treatment target for the post-2015 era at the 2014 International AIDS Conference. The new "90-90-90" target provides that by 2020: (a) 90 per cent of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; (b) 90 per cent of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy; and (c) 90 per cent of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will achieve viral suppression.

40. The 90-90-90 target has been embraced by international donors, national Governments, civil society and other partners. At a high-level side event at the General Assembly in September 2014, the Heads of State of Ghana, South Africa and Switzerland and the United Sates Secretary of State endorsed the target. The Joint Programme is now aiding countries in translating the 90-90-90 global target into national benchmarks and action plans.

41. Diagnostics, which are critical to effective medical management of HIV, remain underutilized. Most people living with HIV do not know their HIV status and most people with diagnosed HIV infection lack access to essential viral load testing technology. In 2014, the Joint Programme partnered with the MAC AIDS Fund in a global campaign to increase knowledge of HIV serostatus among young people, leveraging the influence of international performing artists.

42. To effectively leverage diagnostics to accelerate progress, the Joint Programme has joined with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the United States Government and the African Society of Laboratory Medicine to establish the Diagnostics Access Initiative. As the first outcome, the Joint Programme collaborated with partners to negotiate a new global price ceiling for the world's leading viral load test, lowering the price for viral load tests by at least 40 per cent with projected savings of $150 million over the next five years.

E. Reduce tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 50 per cent

43. Tuberculosis is still the leading cause of death among people living with HIV. From 2004 to December 2012, tuberculosis-related deaths among people living with HIV declined by 36 per cent, with 17 countries experiencing declines of at least 50 per cent. WHO estimates that collaborative HIV/tuberculosis activities prevented about 1.3 million deaths in 2005-2012. In 2013, 70 per cent of tuberculosis patients known to be HIV-positive were receiving antiretroviral therapy, an improvement over prior years but still short of the global goal of 100 per cent coverage by 2015.

44. The Joint Programme has supported countries through normative guidance and technical and capacity-building support. Technical support by WHO has supported the purchase of more than 4.2 million Xpert MTB/RIF cartridges in 95 countries. UNICEF aided countries in adapting global guidelines on HIV/tuberculosis co-infection among children.

F. Close the global AIDS resource gap

45. The Joint Programme has advanced advocacy for a shift from traditional cooperation relationships to shared responsibility and global solidarity approaches. From 2006 to 2011, some 80 countries increased their domestic investments for AIDS-related spending by more than 50 per cent. The African Union embraced a road map for a new response to AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, and all the Presidents of the States members of the Central American Integration System endorsed the development of a sustainability strategy action and monitoring plans for sustainable HIV investments in the region. The Joint Programme continues to promote the strategic investment approach, supporting countries to focus on priority

areas, populations and interventions, ensure value for money and multiply benefits across broader health and development outcomes.

46. Total funding for the AIDS response continued to rise, reaching $19.1 billion in 2013. Low- and middle-income countries now cover a majority of the financing for the AIDS response. Among traditional international donors, however, funding declined by 3 per cent in 2013.

47. The Joint Programme works closely with such key funders as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. In 2012 and 2013, the Joint Programme successfully aided five early applicant countries under the Global Fund's new funding model, generating total HIV funding of $371 million.

48. By November 2014, 38 countries had either developed or were currently working on investment cases for response sustainability, with support from the Joint Programme. These processes have generated forward-looking national commitments, including the reallocation of resources towards high-impact interventions, enhanced resource targeting for key populations and geographic locations, commitments to increase domestic AIDS spending, and consideration of various innovative financing mechanisms, such as airline ticket tax levies.

49. At a multi-stakeholder dialogue on AIDS financing, hosted by the Joint Programme, participants highlighted that the ongoing need for shared responsibility includes both global resources and increased domestic support for the response, as well as stronger efforts — supported by the Joint Programme — to increase efficiencies and reduce costs across all resource streams. Participants welcomed the catalytic role of the Joint Programme in mobilizing political leadership, advocacy and resources, as well as the broadening of the UNAIDS donor base. In that regard, they noted in particular the addition of new donors from Africa, including the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal, to the core budget. The dialogue also raised civil society resourcing shortfalls as an important concern, stressing that collective work is needed to help to identify gaps and ensure a continuing social movement for HIV.

G. Meet the specific needs of women and girls and eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence

50. Women and girls continue to be heavily affected by HIV, representing 52 per cent of all adults living with HIV globally and 57 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2013, 64 per cent of the 250,000 new HIV infections occurring in older adolescents (15 to 19 years) were among girls. In some settings, up to 45 per cent of adolescent girls report that their first sexual experience was coerced. Fear of violence and other indicators of gender inequality undermine the ability of women and young girls to protect themselves from HIV infection.

51. The share of countries with a policy, law or regulation in place to reduce violence, including sexual assault, rose from 38 per cent in 2010 to 77 per cent in 2012. The proportion of countries collecting data on the links between gender-based violence and HIV increased from 1 per cent in 2010 to 27 per cent in 2012. The leadership capacity of women and girls living with and affected by HIV was strengthened through the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN-Women and the secretariat in 68 countries in the period 2012-2013;

however, countries reporting the participation of women living with HIV in formal planning and review mechanisms for the national AIDS response declined from 66 per cent in 2010 to 61 per cent in 2012. In many cases, gender-sensitive policies have not translated into action, and improved sex- and age-disaggregated data are needed to ensure targeted programming and financing. Towards that aim, UN-Women and multiple partners led a process to agree on a set of standardized indicators for the programmatic areas of gender and HIV.

52. The work of the Joint Programme on gender equality is guided by the UNAIDS Agenda for Accelerated Country Action for Women, Girls, Gender Equality and HIV, which has been officially launched in 80 countries. Among those countries, 76 per cent reported having a multisectoral HIV strategy that includes a specific component for women, although only 38 per cent reported that they had a budget component focused on women. With the support of the Joint Programme, 27 countries have completed a gender assessment of their national HIV responses, and 20 countries are currently undertaking or preparing for a gender assessment. The addition, in 2012, of UN-Women as a co-sponsor of the Joint Programme has strengthened the capacity of UNAIDS to effectively address the epidemic's gender dimensions, including through the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women administered by UN-Women, which annually supports a number of government and civil society initiatives to address violence and HIV.

H. Eliminate stigma and discrimination and reduce punitive laws against people living with HIV or at highest risk of HIV

53. Surveys through the People Living with HIV Stigma Index document that a substantial proportion of people living with HIV experience stigma and discrimination in employment, housing and health-care settings, with a heavy burden on women and girls and members of key populations. More than 60 countries have statutes in place criminalizing HIV transmission, exposure or non-disclosure, and such prosecutions have also occurred in dozens of other countries under non-HIV-specific laws. Injecting drug use and at least some aspects of sex work are almost universally criminalized; 76 countries criminalize sex between members of the same sex, including seven countries where this is punishable by death; and transgender people struggle to obtain legal identification that aligns with their gender identity. Such punitive legal measures deter individuals from seeking health-care services and increase the likelihood that people will be placed in vulnerable situations that increase the risk of HIV acquisition.

54. Legal and policy framework trends are mixed. The proportion of countries reporting the existence of anti-discrimination laws protecting people living with HIV (61 per cent in 2012) has remained stable, while a number of countries have imposed new legal sanctions on same-sex sexual behaviour and/or gay rights advocacy. The proportion of countries reporting legal aid systems for people living with HIV reached 45 per cent in 2012.

55. In the period 2013-2014, the Joint Programme remained a leading global advocate for human rights-based approaches to AIDS. In 2012, UNAIDS supported action on HIV and legal environments in 84 countries, and the secretariat partnered with the Global Network of People Living with HIV to further roll out the Stigma Index to more than 50 countries. The Joint Programme supported legal assessments

in more than 50 countries, the review of draft legislation, civil society groups working on human rights issues, and intensive engagement by national stakeholders. As homophobic legislation emerged in various countries, the Joint Programme worked locally to support communities negatively affected by those initiatives and to ensure the continuity of vital services for groups affected by such laws. In 2013, ILO launched the VCT@WORK initiative, supported across the Joint Programme, to reach 5 million workers with voluntary and confidential HIV counselling and testing by 2015. In addition, the Joint Programme issued guidance on initiatives to reduce stigma and discrimination and increase access to justice in national responses, as well as a costing tool for human rights programmes. The Inter-Agency Task Team on HIV in Emergencies, which is led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP, engaged in extensive activities and advocated for greater focus on HIV and emergencies.

I. Eliminate HIV-related travel restrictions on entry, stay and residence

56. In June 2011, 49 countries, territories and areas imposed some form of restriction on the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV based on their HIV status. Since then, 10 countries have removed their restrictions or officially clarified that they do not apply such HIV-related travel restrictions. In 2013, UNAIDS worked with GBCHealth to generate a pledge opposing HIV-related restrictions, which has been signed by more than 40 chief executive officers worldwide. The Joint Programme continued to support countries in reviewing and removing travel restrictions, including the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova and Mongolia. The UNAIDS-launched global advocacy campaign against discrimination, featuring Nobel Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, focused worldwide attention on outdated, discriminatory and ineffective travel restrictions.

J. Eliminate parallel systems for HIV-related services to strengthen integration of the AIDS response

57. The Joint Programme has prioritized efforts to integrate the AIDS response across the broader global health and development agenda. Through normative guidance and technical support, the Joint Programme has aided countries in aligning AIDS planning with other planning processes and in linking HIV services with other service systems.

58. Among countries undertaking midterm reviews, 82 per cent reported addressing integration in their national AIDS strategies, with nearly half (48 per cent) aligning HIV planning with other health-planning processes. More than half (53 per cent) of countries have strengthened HIV/tuberculosis integration; 70 per cent have integrated HIV testing, counselling and services in antenatal care; two thirds have integrated HIV with sexual and reproductive health-care services; 55 per cent have integrated HIV services in general primary care; and a growing number of countries are integrating HIV with services for non-communicable diseases.

59. Growing evidence regarding the effectiveness of cash transfer schemes in preventing new HIV infections underscores the importance of integrating AIDS and social protection. Including funds leveraged by co-sponsors, the Joint Programme

allocated $197 million for activities relating to social protection in the period 2014-2015. In July 2014, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board devoted one day of its 34th meeting to a thematic discussion on strategies to address social and economic drivers of HIV through social protection. In response, the Programme Coordinating Board encouraged the Joint Programme to facilitate country-level dialogues on the linked goals of ending the AIDS epidemic, extreme poverty and inequality and to conduct HIV and social protection assessments to inform national investment approaches.

IV. AIDS post-2015: Ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030

60. At its 35th meeting, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board reaffirmed its commitment to ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 and called upon Member States to advocate for the inclusion of this goal in the post-2015 sustainable development goals. The updated and extended UNAIDS strategy for 2016-2021, with the accompanying Unified Budget, Results and Accountability Framework, will be designed to maximize the Joint Programme's contribution towards ending the epidemic.

61. The future of the AIDS response is unfolding in a rapidly changing world. The response is confronted with myriad competing priorities and an evolving funding situation, as well as age-old challenges such as limited human resources, inadequate physical and technical infrastructure in resource-limited settings, and the effects of stigma, discrimination and gender inequalities. Newer, more effective antiretroviral medicines are also more expensive than older drugs, especially the second- and third-line regimens that will be increasingly needed by people living with HIV in future years.

62. Ending the epidemic demands a response that is optimally strategic and sustainable. New partners and champions are needed, and decision-makers need to be persuaded to transcend short-term political priorities and put in place the policies and programmes that will generate long-term health, development and economic returns. The AIDS epidemic cannot be ended unless the needs of those currently left behind are effectively met, underscoring the vital importance of grounding the response in human rights and gender equality.

63. As ample experience has demonstrated, AIDS is much more than a health issue. This highlights the urgent importance of promoting HIV-sensitive approaches and linkages with the AIDS response across the post-2015 development agenda. The Joint Programme has been working to ensure that AIDS is adequately reflected in the post-2015 agenda, advocating for HIV-sensitive indicators in such diverse areas as gender equality, education and partnership to ensure policy coherence and synergistic action to address the social, political and economic determinants of HIV, poor health, poverty and inequality. For example, the Joint Programme has worked to ensure that HIV is a robust component of the post-2015 decent work agenda of the ILO International Labour Council.

64. To end the epidemic, the response will need to effectively reach those currently being left behind. Groups whose needs are not being effectively met by the response include adolescent girls and young women, prisoners, migrants, people

who inject drugs, sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, children living with HIV, displaced persons, people with disabilities and people aged 50 years and older. Overcoming the factors that have prevented greater progress for these groups demands a response that recognizes such populations as natural partners in the quest to end the epidemic by 2030, underscoring the critical need for people-centred approaches that galvanize the participation and leadership of affected communities.

A. Fast track by 2020

65. Modelling led by the Joint Programme identifies the next five years as a narrow window in which to accelerate action and front-load investments to lay the foundation to end the AIDS epidemic. Accordingly, the Joint Programme has embarked on a fast-track strategy to rapidly expedite gains in national responses in the next five years. Implementing the fast-track strategy at the country level requires the establishment of ambitious targets, increased national investments in scaling up priority prevention and treatment interventions, reaching those left behind and removing social, legal and other impediments to scale-up. A more strategic, granular approach that focuses finite resources on high-impact interventions in the geographic areas and populations where the need is greatest is required. In assisting national partners in translating ambitious global targets for 2020 into national targets, the Joint Programme is focusing intensive efforts on the 28 low- and middle-income countries that account for nearly 90 per cent of all new HIV infections.

66. Ambitious targets drive progress, enhance accountability and unite stakeholders. In addition to the 90-90-90 treatment target, the Joint Programme is working on the development of complementary targets for HIV prevention and non-discrimination. The Joint Programme-led modelling indicates that reaching the 90-90-90 target and provisional prevention and non-discrimination targets by 2020 will effectively end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030, reducing the number of new HIV infections by 89 per cent and the number of AIDS-related deaths by 81 per cent compared with 2010.

67. Key actors have readily embraced the fast-track agenda. At a 2014 World AIDS Day event, mayors from around the world signed a declaration pledging to end the epidemic in their cities through a fast-track approach. This is a critical commitment to the success of the approach given that a majority of people living with HIV already live in cities, which are expected to account for more than 60 per cent of the world's population by 2050.

B. Delivering the post-2015 AIDS response: shared responsibility and global solidarity

68. To lay the foundation to end the epidemic, low-income countries will require $9.7 billion in 2020, while lower-middle-income countries will need $8.7 billion. Upper-middle-income countries will require $17.2 billion in AIDS funding in 2020; their funding needs will decline to $14.2 billion in 2030.

69. Mobilizing the resources that will be needed to end the AIDS epidemic will require both global resources and increased domestic support for the response. In 2014, UNAIDS outlined a strategy to mobilize essential financing to end the epidemic, based on the principles of shared responsibility and global solidarity.

70. All low- and middle-income countries need to bring domestic AIDS funding into line with their national wealth and HIV burden, which in most countries will require an increase in domestic financing for the response and further increases as national economies grow. Low-income countries will continue to require substantial international support to implement fast-track targets. Lower-middle-income countries should assume a greater share of financial responsibility for their national responses, although those with a heavy HIV burden will continue to need considerable external assistance. Upper-middle-income countries should take immediate steps to transition to self-financing of the response, although special arrangements may be needed where the drawdown of donor funding might result in de-funding of essential programmes for key populations.

71. Countries need to explore innovative financing mechanisms to generate sustainable, renewable funding sources for HIV, such as special tax levies, national lotteries and dedication of unclaimed assets to the AIDS response. In addition to mobilizing new resources, stakeholders need to redouble efforts to ensure that all AIDS funding is used to maximum effect.

72. All providers of financial support for the response, but especially low- and middle-income countries, should consider AIDS funding as an excellent investment that will generate substantial health and economic returns. In 2014, UNAIDS-commissioned modelling found that investments towards ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 would yield economic returns of $15 per dollar spent.

C. Linking AIDS with broader global health and development

73. In resolution 2013/11, the Economic and Social Council recognized the value of the lessons learned from the global HIV and AIDS response for the post-2015 development agenda, including lessons learned from the unique approach of the Joint Programme. It also recognized that UNAIDS offers the United Nations a useful example, to be considered as a way for the Organization to enhance strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus and country-level impact in the post-2015 period. These sentiments were also recognized and reaffirmed by the Programme Coordinating Board at its 34th and 35th meetings. The Joint Programme provides inspiration and lessons for broader development efforts through its evidence- and rights-based approaches, underpinned by the values of human rights, equality and sustainability, with inclusive governance and mutual accountability at the core.

74. The outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa underscores how the AIDS response can support and be linked with broader health issues. The Joint Programme brings experience in a multisectoral, multi-stakeholder response, focused on the poorest and most marginalized, where stigma and discrimination are critical obstacles and where community action and mobilization and human-rights-based approaches are essential. The Joint Programme responded quickly, coordinating efforts with the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER).

Joint Programme staff members in the region have actively supported UNMEER, and other UNAIDS staff have been voluntarily redeployed to the region. The UNAIDS Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director undertook missions to the region, supporting the Ebola response. In its multifaceted activities, the Joint Programme is working to support essential HIV services in the context of the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease and to support the key UNMEER pillars of the Ebola response. It has also helped to prepare for Ebola vaccine clinical trials.

75. The AIDS response catalyses broader global health and development progress in other ways. In Rwanda, for example, stronger health-care systems as a result of investments in early scale-up of HIV treatment have allowed the country to provide a growing array of health-care services; childhood vaccination rates in Rwanda have reached 97 per cent, and 69 per cent of births are now attended by clinicians in health-care facilities. Similar benefits to the broader health-care system from AIDS funding have been documented in Kenya and other settings.

76. The AIDS response also benefits from integration with broader global health and development efforts. The integration of HIV into other health and social service systems accelerates service scale-up and improves outcomes. The AIDS response also relies on robust non-health sectors. For example, it will be impossible to address human rights violations or reach those currently left behind without the effective involvement of law enforcement and other judicial officers. Nor will it be possible to optimally minimize the risk and vulnerability of adolescent girls and young women without strong collaboration with social protection agencies and national ministries focused on women and families.

V. Recommendations towards ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030

77. **The Economic and Social Council may wish to consider the following actions:**

(a) **Commend the continued support provided by UNAIDS to drive progress on the implementation of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS towards achieving the global vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths, including the assistance provided to countries to ensure timely reporting on progress and to address documented gaps in the response;**

(b) **Acknowledge the historic opportunity to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030, while emphasizing that the epidemic is not over and that the next five years offer a fragile window of opportunity to accelerate the response and lay the foundation to end the epidemic by 2030. In order to ensure that no one is left behind, responses and resources need to be focused on locations and populations where they will have the greatest impact, in line with epidemiological patterns; to be grounded in human rights and gender equality; and to fully engage young people and the most affected populations;**

(c) **Call upon Member States and the Joint Programme to pursue, in line with the common vision of the three zeros, a clear commitment in the post-2015 development agenda to ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat and an obstacle for overall sustainable development by 2030, through evidence-**

based interventions to include universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care, and support, so that AIDS no longer represents a major threat to any population or country;

(d) Reaffirm Council resolution 2013/11, in particular the value of the lessons learned from the global AIDS response for the post-2015 development agenda, including those learned from the unique approach of the Joint Programme; also reaffirm that the Joint Programme offers the United Nations system a useful example, for the post-2015 period, of enhanced strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus, inclusive governance and country-level impact, based on national contexts and priorities;

(e) Look forward to the high-level meeting on AIDS to be convened by the General Assembly in 2016 and underline the important opportunity provided by this event to further advance the ambitious commitment to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030;

(f) Note the ongoing need to close the AIDS resource gap, in line with the principles of shared responsibility and global solidarity; encourage countries to scale up their domestic funding for the response; and call upon existing and new international donors to reaffirm their commitment and solidarity in the response. At the same time, emphasize that comparable action is needed to ensure value for money in the response, by improving service efficiency and effectiveness and removing obstacles to service delivery, aligning national responses with documented epidemiological patterns and implementing sound investments.

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Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

Election of members of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council

Note by the Secretary-General

1. Pursuant to section V of Economic and Social Council resolution 557 C (XVIII), as amended by the Council in its decision of 19 December 1968, information on the forthcoming vacancies in the functional commissions to be filled by the Council is set out in the annex to the present note. Elections for these vacancies will be conducted by the Council at its coordination and management meetings, to be held from 8 to 10 April 2015.

2. Under the terms of Economic and Social Council resolution 1147 (XLI), in 2015 the members of the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development are to be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution according to a specified pattern. The pattern applicable to each functional commission is indicated in the annex, together with the current membership.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 11 February 2015.

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Annex

Membership of the functional commissions in 2015

Statistical Commission

(24 members; four-year term)

Five members from African States

Angola (2017), Cameroon (2017), Libya (2017), Niger* (2015), United Republic of Tanzania* (2015)

Four members from Asia-Pacific States

China (2016), Japan (2016), Mongolia* (2015), Oman* (2015)

Four members from Eastern European States

Bulgaria (2016), Czech Republic* (2015), Hungary* (2015), Russian Federation (2017)

Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States

Barbados (2016), Brazil (2017), Cuba* (2015), Dominican Republic (2016)

Seven members from Western European and other States

Germany (2016), Italy (2017), Netherlands (2016), New Zealand (2017), Sweden (2017), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2016), United States of America* (2015)

* * *

Eight members are to be elected according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;

Two members from Asia-Pacific States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

One member from Latin American and Caribbean States;

One member from Western European and other States.

* Retiring member.

Commission on Population and Development

(47 members; four-year term: membership for the forty-ninth session (2015-2016))[a]

Twelve members from African States

Benin (2018), Burundi (2019), Chad (2017), Egypt* (2016), Liberia (2018), Madagascar (2017), Nigeria (2017), Sierra Leone (2019), South Africa (2018), Uganda* (2016), United Republic of Tanzania* (2016), Zambia (2018)

Eleven members from Asia-Pacific States[b]

Bangladesh (2017), China (2018), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2019), Japan* (2016), Malaysia (2018), Mongolia (2018), Oman (2017), Pakistan (2018), Philippines (2019)

Five members from Eastern European States

Belarus (2019), Republic of Moldova* (2016), Romania (2017), Russian Federation (2018), Serbia (2018)

Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States[c]

Argentina (2018), Brazil (2017), Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (2019), Dominican Republic (2018), Mexico (2017), Peru (2018), Uruguay (2017)

Ten members from Western European and other States

Belgium (2017), Denmark (2017), Germany (2018), Israel (2019), Netherlands (2017), Norway* (2016), Spain* (2016), Switzerland (2017), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2018), United States of America (2018)

* * *

Nine members are to be elected according to the following pattern:

Three members from African States;

Two members from Asia-Pacific States;

One member from Eastern European States;

One member from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Two members from Western European and other States.

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[a] In accordance with its decision 2005/213, the Council will elect the new members for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting, to be held in 2016, of the Commission's fiftieth session and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-third session, in 2020.

[b] There are two vacancies in this group: one vacancy for a member whose term would begin on the date of election and expire at the close of the Commission's forty-ninth session, in 2016, and one vacancy for a member whose term would begin on the date of election and expire at the close of the Commission's fiftieth session, in 2017 (see decision 2014/201 B).

[c] There are two vacancies in this group: one vacancy for a member whose term would begin on the date of election and expire at the close of the Commission's forty-ninth session, in 2016, and one vacancy for a member whose term would begin at the first meeting of the Commission's forty-ninth session, to be held in 2015, and expire at the close of the Commission's fifty-second session, in 2019 (see decision 2014/201 B).

Commission for Social Development

(46 members; four-year term: membership for the fifty-fourth session (2015-2016))[d]

Twelve members from African States

Algeria (2019), Benin (2019), Burundi (2019), Democratic Republic of the Congo (2017), Liberia* (2016), Madagascar (2017), Malawi (2017), Mauritania* (2016), Namibia (2019), Nigeria* (2016), Sudan* (2016), Uganda (2017)

Ten members from Asia-Pacific States

China (2017), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2019), Iraq (2019), Japan* (2016), Kuwait (2017), Mongolia* (2016), Pakistan (2017), Qatar (2019), Republic of Korea* (2016), Turkmenistan (2017)

Five members from Eastern European States[e]

Belarus* (2016), Poland (2017), Romania (2017), Russian Federation* (2016)

Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States

Argentina (2017), Brazil (2017), Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (2019), Chile (2017), Colombia (2019), Dominican Republic* (2016), Ecuador* (2016), El Salvador* (2016), Mexico (2019)

Ten members from Western European and other States[f]

Finland (2017), France (2017), Germany* (2016), Switzerland (2017), United States of America* (2016)

* * *

Fifteen members are to be elected according to the following pattern:

Four members from African States;

Three members from Asia-Pacific States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Three members from Western European and other States.

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[d] In accordance with its decision 2002/210, the Council will elect the new members for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting, to be held in 2016, of the Commission's fifty-fifth session and expiring at the close of the Commission's fifty-eighth session, in 2020.

[e] There is one vacancy in this group for a member whose term would begin on the date of election and expire at the close of the Commission's fifty-seventh session, in 2019 (see decision 2014/201 B).

[f] There are five vacancies in this group: one vacancy for a member whose term would begin on the date of election and expire at the close of the Commission's fifty-fourth session, in 2016, one vacancy for a member whose term would begin on the date of election and expire at the close of the Commission's fifty-fifth session, in 2017, and three vacancies for members whose terms would begin on the date of election and expire at the close of the Commission's fifty-seventh session, in 2019 (see decision 2014/201 B).

Commission on the Status of Women

(45 members; four-year term: membership of the sixtieth session (2015-2016))[g]

Thirteen members from African States

Burkina Faso (2017), Congo (2018), Egypt (2018), Equatorial Guinea (2019), Ghana (2018), Kenya (2018), Lesotho (2017), Liberia (2019), Malawi (2019), Niger* (2016), Sudan* (2016), Uganda (2017), United Republic of Tanzania (2018)

Eleven members from Asia-Pacific States

Bangladesh (2018), China* (2016), India (2018), Indonesia* (2016), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2019), Japan (2017), Kazakhstan (2018), Mongolia (2019), Pakistan (2017), Republic of Korea (2018), Tajikistan (2018)

Four members from Eastern European States

Albania (2019), Belarus (2017), Bosnia and Herzegovina (2019), Russian Federation* (2016)

Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States

Brazil* (2016), Colombia (2019), Cuba* (2016), Dominican Republic* (2016), Ecuador (2017), El Salvador (2018), Guyana (2018), Paraguay (2017), Uruguay (2018)

Eight members from Western European and other States

Belgium (2019), Finland* (2016), Germany (2017), Israel (2017), Liechtenstein (2019), Spain (2019), Switzerland (2017), United States of America* (2016)

* * *

Ten members are to be elected according to the following pattern:

Two members from African States;

Two members from Asia-Pacific States;

One member from Eastern European States;

Three members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Two members from Western European and other States.

[g] In accordance with its decision 2002/234, the Council will elect the new members for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting, to be held in 2016, of the Commission's sixty-first session and expiring at the close of the Commission's sixty-fourth session, in 2020.

Commission on Narcotic Drugs

(53 members; four-year term)

Eleven members from African States

Algeria* (2015), Angola (2017), Benin (2017), Cameroon* (2015), Democratic Republic of the Congo* (2015), Egypt* (2015), Namibia* (2015), Nigeria (2017), Togo (2017), United Republic of Tanzania* (2015), Zimbabwe* (2015)

Twelve members from Asia-Pacific States[h]

Afghanistan* (2015), China* (2015), India (2017), Indonesia (2017), Iran (Islamic Republic of)* (2015), Japan* (2015), Kazakhstan (2017), Pakistan* (2015), Republic of Korea* (2015), Tajikistan (2017), Thailand* (2015), Turkmenistan* (2015)

Six members from Eastern European States

Croatia (2017), Czech Republic (2017), Hungary* (2015), Poland* (2015), Russian Federation (2017), Ukraine* (2015)

Ten members from Latin American and Caribbean States[h]

Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (2017), Brazil (2017), Colombia (2017), Cuba (2017), Guatemala* (2015), Mexico* (2015), Peru* (2015), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines* (2015), Suriname* (2015), Uruguay* (2015)

Fourteen members from Western European and other States

Australia (2017), Austria* (2015), Belgium (2017), Canada (2017), Denmark* (2015), France (2017), Germany* (2015), Israel* (2015), Italy* (2015), Netherlands* (2015), Spain* (2015), Turkey* (2015), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2017), United States of America* (2015)

* * *

Thirty-three members are to be elected according to the following pattern:

Seven members from African States;

Seven members from Asia-Pacific States;[h]

Three members from Eastern European States;

Seven members from Latin American and Caribbean States;[h]

Nine members from Western European and other States.

[h] In accordance with Council resolution 1991/49, one seat rotates between Asia-Pacific States and Latin American and Caribbean States every four years. The rotating seat was allocated to Asia-Pacific States in 2011 for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2012, thus giving Asia-Pacific States 12 seats and Latin American and Caribbean States 10 seats. In 2015, the rotating seat will be allocated to Latin American and Caribbean States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2016, giving Asia-Pacific States and Latin American and Caribbean States 11 seats each.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

(40 members; three-year term)

Twelve members from African States

Cameroon* (2015), Democratic Republic of the Congo (2017), Eritrea (2017), Ghana* (2015), Kenya (2017), Liberia (2017), Mauritius (2017), Morocco (2017), Namibia* (2015), Nigeria* (2015), Sierra Leone (2017), Zimbabwe (2017)

Nine members from Asia-Pacific States

China (2017), Indonesia* (2015), Iran (Islamic Republic of)* (2015), Japan (2017), Pakistan* (2015), Qatar (2017), Republic of Korea* (2015), Saudi Arabia* (2015), Thailand (2017)

Four members from Eastern European States

Belarus* (2015), Czech Republic* (2015), Russian Federation (2017), Slovakia (2017)

Eight members from Latin American and Caribbean States

Argentina* (2015), Bahamas* (2015), Brazil* (2015), Colombia (2017), Ecuador (2017), El Salvador (2017), Mexico* (2015), Peru* (2015)

Seven members from Western European and other States

Canada (2017), Germany (2017), Italy (2017), Norway* (2015), Switzerland* (2015), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland* (2015), United States of America* (2015)

* * *

Twenty members are to be elected according to the following pattern:

Four members from African States;

Five members from Asia-Pacific States;

Two members from Eastern European States;

Five members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

Four members from Western European and other States.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

(43 members; four-year term)

Eleven members from African States

Angola (2018), Cameroon (2016), Central African Republic (2016), Côte d'Ivoire (2018), Kenya (2018), Liberia (2016), Mauritania (2018), Mauritius (2018), Nigeria (2016), Uganda (2018), Zambia (2016)

Nine members from Asia-Pacific States

China (2018), India (2018), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2018), Japan (2016), Oman (2016), Pakistan (2018), Sri Lanka (2016), Thailand (2018), Turkmenistan (2016)

Five members from Eastern European States

Bulgaria (2018), Hungary (2016), Latvia (2018), Poland (2018), Russian Federation (2016)

Eight members from Latin American and Caribbean States

Brazil (2016), Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (2018), Chile (2016), Costa Rica (2016), Cuba (2018), Dominican Republic (2018), Mexico (2016), Peru (2018)

Ten members from Western European and other States

Austria (2016), Canada (2018), Finland (2016), Germany (2016), Portugal (2016), Sweden (2018), Switzerland (2016), Turkey (2018), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2018), United States of America (2018)

* * *

There are no vacancies on the Commission to be filled in 2015.